



CITY OF LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF HEALTH

September 6, 2021

PHONE-IN PARTICIPANTS:

Jo-Ann Keegan, Chairperson
William Galvin, Board Member
Lisa Golden, Board Member
Erin Gendron, Board Member
Brendan Flynn, Dept. Director of Finance - HHS
Shawn Machado, Sr. Sanitary Code Inspector

Chairwoman Jo-Ann Keegan called the meeting to order at 6:03PM.

9/1/2021 - Minutes

1. NEW BUSINESS

1.I. Conference Call Log-In Information

1.II. For Acceptance: Minutes of the August 4, 2021 Meeting of the Board of Health

Motion: To accept the minutes of the August 4, 2021 Meeting of the Board of Health made by Kathleen Cullen-Lutter, seconded by Lisa Golden. All in favor.

1.III. For Review: Tobacco Control Monthly Report submitted by Cesar Pungirum, Program Director
The Board accepted and placed on file.

1.IV. For Review: Monthly Development Services Report submitted by Senior Sanitary Code Inspector Shawn Machado
Senior Sanitary Code Inspector Shawn Machado reviewed the reports with the Board. The Board had no questions regarding the reports. The on-going repairs at Lowell High School were briefly discussed.

1.V. For Review: Trinity EMS, Inc. Reports and Notifications submitted by Jon Kelley
The Board accepted and placed on file.

2. OLD BUSINESS

2.I. Update: COVID-19

The Board had no questions regarding the presented material. Chairwoman Keegan noted as a point of personal privilege that she has been asked to return to the Covid Incident Commander for a term of 90 days. She has been advised that she does not have to step down as a BOH Member as the City Council will be asked to make the position a "Special Position" as allowed by State Law.

2.II. Discussion: Return to In-Person Meetings of the Lowell Board of Health

The Board held a discussion on the tentative return to in-person meetings. The Board agreed to a trial in-person October 6, 2021 meeting so that the Tobacco Control suspension hearings could occur and if the COVID-19 numbers go up again to return to Zoom meetings.

2.III. Update: Service Zone Plan

Deputy Finance Director Flynn updated the Board on the status of the Service Zone Plan. It was approved by the State last June and there are no material changes on how the Plan works. He has spoken with Jonathan Brickett about updating personnel information which can be done by email.

3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3.I. Departmental and Divisional Reports and Updates

Mr. Flynn further updated the Board regarding current COVID-19 figures which have started to increase; however, the positivity rate has decreased over the past two weeks. Testing is still occurring at Cawley Stadium but the vendor has had to modify the hours due to staffing shortages. Booster shot rollout is still to be determined with DPH attempting to find out if communities want to do it themselves. Vaccination clinics at the Health Department have had low attendance since the move from the Senior Center. There are 11 events that will be attended by the Mobile Clinic including the Lowell Summer Music Series held at Boarding House Park. A clinic for Lowell High students will be held on September 9th, with the clinic for the second dose in October. Chairwoman Jo-Ann Keegan inquired on the number of citizen deaths from COVID-19. Mr. Flynn informed the Board that from April 1, 2020 to date 322 Lowellilians have passed from COVID/COVID related causes.

Mr. Flynn updated the Board on ongoing personnel efforts. At this time, both Public Health Nurses will be leaving within the next 30 days, leaving only the Public Health Nurse Manager in that division. The Department is actively recruiting but many of the applicants are not qualified for the position. Board Member William Galvin noted that the pay range should be increased, but it is difficult to find nursing staff right now. Additionally, the School Nursing Division is now down to six vacancies and is receiving resumes every couple of days. The City Manager is aware of the salary issue. Chairwoman Keegan noted that hundreds of students have registered to attend school recently and the School Division staff reviews the vaccine records for compliance.

Mr. Flynn updated the Board regarding the MassCall3 and SOR-PEC grants and a new grant that will provide funding for an epidemiologist and contact tracers to take over the duties of the State contracted CHC. Chairwoman Keegan inquired on the DOT figures in the Public Health Clinics report but thought it may be because none have been done. Mr. Flynn believes DOT's have just started up again and that is probably the reason for the lack of data.

3.II. Motion: To Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn made at 6:40 by William Galvin, seconded by Lisa Golden. All in favor.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH WILL BE ON
OCTOBER 6, 2021 AT 6:00 PM IN CITY HALL, MAYOR'S RECEPTION ROOM,
375 MERRIMACK ST., 2ND FLOOR LOWELL, MA 01852**